

HOW TO START A NEW AVP GROUP

This is how it was done in Broome, Western Australia.

- 1.** Through a friend or known contact in an area organise a meeting of some people who are likely to be interested.
- 2.** Do a Taster session with this group. If this is successful, they will be keen to get started.
- 3.** Organise a Basic workshop with a particular group – prison, staff of a welfare organisation, church etc. Use experienced facilitators from a well established AVP group to run this workshop. These facilitators take a kit with them.
- 4.** By word of mouth and through advertising, a second Basic workshop could be run, then an Advanced and then a Training for facilitators – about 4 to 6 weeks in between each level is ideal, but can be different according to circumstances. All of these need to be facilitated by teams which have at least two experienced facilitators in them.
- 5.** By now, if you are lucky, there will be a small group of keen people who are willing to start a committee, advertise and organise workshops and keep a well stocked kit.
- 6.** This new committee could be supported by the main committee for that state, be a sub group under the same constitution, incorporation and bank account – function under the same ABN number etc, - until it is strong enough to be a completely separate group, if that is better for all concerned.
- 7.** For at least two years, depending on the type of group for whom a workshop is arranged, an experienced facilitator needs to be on the team.
- 8.** FUNDING: In WA we are lucky to have an anonymous donor so that we could cover the air fares and accommodation of experienced facilitators to begin with. Eventually, the new group could cover their expenses by charging participants for workshops and conducting other fund raising activities. The fact that our prisons pay \$400 per workshop also helps.
- 9.** The Broome committee has some very enthusiastic members who organise fantastic promotions and activities at the town markets and on Peace One Day. They are also very lucky to have a journalist and graphic designer on their committee, so advertising in the local paper is often seen.
- 10.** Even three and four years later, facilitators with special expertise travel to that town to assist in teams for special groups like the schools, or with ethnic groups.

For further information or assistance for starting an AVP group in this type of town, email: avp.wal@gmail.com

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